



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 28, 2022

From: Holly Andreatta, Mayor
Paul Joiner, Mayor Pro Tem
Alyssa Silhi, Councilmember
Dan Karleskint, Councilmember

Re: The City of Lincoln City Council Response to Councilmember William Lauritsen's Violation of Workplace Standards and Council Code of Conduct Policies: Impending Censure

On April 25, 2022, Councilmember William Lauritsen was verbally and physically aggressive toward a member of Lincoln's business community, verbally assaulting, and appearing to strike the individual at a debate forum for the Congressional Third District in front of a room full of witnesses and while being filmed on FaceBook Live.

"This great City – our residents, our business community, our staff – expect and deserve the highest level of professionalism, respect, and integrity from their elected representatives. We, as a Council, hold ourselves to a higher standard and continually seek to earn and keep the trust of our public. Governing with accountability, transparency, and self-discipline is our primary responsibility. Councilmember Lauritsen's actions have violated this trust and jeopardized the people's confidence in their government. We take this very seriously, and are embarrassed, disgusted, and outraged by his behavior."

"As a result of Councilmember Lauritsen's refusal to resign, Council is pursuing disciplinary options under our powers to censure and have restricted City funding for any events that Councilmember Lauritsen would attend on the City's behalf. However, ultimately, only the voters have the power of recall and removal from office – which we strongly endorse."

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The Lincoln City Council took a step toward addressing the behavior of Councilmember William Lauritsen on April 27, 2022 providing direction to City staff after a meeting in closed session that lasted under an hour, resulting in staff direction to prepare a resolution of censure. Censure is a disciplinary procedure condemning the actions of a member of the legislative body and is the sternest discipline a City Council can administer to one of its members. The motion for censure will include a statement of charges and a resolution, which will be heard during general business at the next regular meeting of the City Council on May 10, 2022. Councilmember Lauritsen will have an opportunity at that meeting to defend his conduct.

In addition, at the same meeting the Council will consider removing Councilmember Lauritsen from all City and regional Boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and group assignments. Further, while Councilmember Lauritsen currently remains on Council and may appear as an individual, the City will not fund memberships or attendance at events on behalf of the City as a designated representative, including cancelling his participation in the annual Cap-to-Cap conference in Washington D.C next week, which is an important event to advocate Congress on behalf of Lincoln's and greater Sacramento's regional needs.

"We as a Council jointly express our deep sadness and frustration for the loss of trust and respect Mr. Lauritsen has caused, particularly after years of long suffering efforts to rebuild the City's relationship with the Lincoln community. We apologize on his behalf and will continue to work toward repairing the public's confidence in their public servants."

Only the voters can remove a City Councilmember from office by way of a recall election, conducted pursuant to Elections Code §11000, et seq. All four Councilmembers demanding the resignation voice their support for a voter-driven recall of Councilmember Lauritsen.

To locate City of Lincoln City Council agendas, go to <https://www.lincolncalifornia.gov/en/our-government/agendas-and-minutes.aspx>. Lincoln City Council meetings are in person at 6 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Council chambers on the third floor of City Hall at 600 6th Street. Additionally, all meetings are live streamed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw5yTRgJ4L2kLTzBh2piD8Q> and public participation is available virtually through zoom, the link for participation is posted on all agendas.